

## FBI Nabs Eight On Gun Charges

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BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP) -- Eight people, including four alleged members of the Washington State Militia, were being held today on explosives and firearms charges after a series of weekend arrests, authorities said.

But the FBI today would not elaborate on the reasons behind the roundup, except to say the arrests were not related to Saturday's bombing at Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta.

FBI agent Burdena Pasenelli said there was "enough interest to law enforcement it was necessary for us to respond and take these people off the street."

On Sunday, Pasenelli announced the arrests of nine people, but he said today that eight had been charged. Charlie Mandigo, assistant special agent in charge of the Seattle FBI office, said the ninth person was arrested on a Seattle misdemeanor warrant, unrelated to the explosives investigation.

Those charged were identified as William Smith, about 60, Seattle; John Irvin Pitner, 45, Deming; Judith Carol Kirk, 54, Seattle; John Loyd Kirk, 56, Seattle; Richard Frank Burton Jr., 38, Seattle; Frederick Benjamin Fisher, 61, Bellingham; Gary Marvin Kuehnoel, 48, Bellingham; and Marlin Lane Mack, 24, Bellingham.

All are charged with conspiracy to make and possess explosive devices. Kirks, Burton, Kuehnoel and Mack are accused of making and possessing explosive devices, and Kuehnoel is charged with transfer and possession

of a machine gun.

Five of the group were arrested Saturday in Bellingham, about 80 miles north of Seattle, while participating in a class on how to use explosives, authorities said.

Pitner was arrested at his home in Deming by FBI agents posing as real estate agents, according to his wife, Deborah.

Pitner, Mack, Kuehnoel and Fisher were members of an antigovernment group known as the Washington State Militia, authorities said.

Pitner's daughter, Rachel, told KOMO-TV in Seattle that she asked her father, "How can they take you away? You've been praised as (having) one of the mellowest movements in the area."

KIRO-TV reported that two houses in the Seattle area were searched as part of the investigation.

There have been four bombings since April 1 in Spokane, at the far eastern end of the state. Authorities said today they still were investigating whether any of the eight could have been involved in any of them.

No one was injured in any of the Spokane bombings. Two pipe bombs exploded at a newspaper office and a bank April 1, and the bank also was robbed. On April 29, a pipe bomb packed with 3-inch nails exploded at Spokane City Hall. On July 12, there was a pipe bombing at a Planned Parenthood clinic and another bank robbery.